



Hurricane Harvey 2017  
9/7/2017 – 1700 CDT Update

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- Governor Abbott held a press conference today announcing the formation of a Recovery Texas Commission to be headed by the Chancellor of Texas A&M. EPA has been invited to participate.
- Texas Governor Abbott is traveling to Corpus Christi and Fort Bend County today, Victoria and Houston on Friday, and Beaumont on Saturday. He will be accompanied by EPA Acting Regional Administrator Coleman today and tomorrow; and Senior Advisor Kell Kelly on Saturday.
- EPA Remedial Project Manager and the EPA Region 6 Dive Team are onsite and overseeing the assessment at San Jacinto Waste Pits Superfund site. Contractors for the Responsible Party continue to survey portions of the cap that are submerged and place rock where necessary to reinforce the cap.
- The Environmental Protection Agency has concurred with the State of Texas Plan for Vector Control as part of its recovery efforts associated with Hurricane Harvey. The plan calls for the use of insecticides containing “Naled” for aerial spray operations. Texas Department of State Health Services and the Texas Department of Agriculture were jointly consulted on the plan.
- The TCEQ Austin Phone Bank is beginning to reduce its operations. EPA is currently evaluating options to shift personnel from the Phone Bank to other areas.

## **PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

EPA Community Liaisons are being deployed to each County impacted by Hurricane Harvey. From these locations, the Liaisons will function as a clearing house for disaster/clean-up information and be a resource for local residents and public officials.

EPA continues to move forward on finalizing procedures for providing sampling kits to residents with private wells. Citizens will be provided instructions on getting their kits, properly taking samples, and getting the samples processed free of charge. Information will be provided to them on how to disinfect their wells before being tested for Ph levels, nitrates, conductivity and coliform bacteria.

## DEBRIS RECOVERY

EPA currently has no mission assignment for debris recovery operations.

## AIR MONITORING

The US EPA's Environmental Response Team (ERT) mobile laboratory, using the trace atmospheric gas analyzer (TAGA) triple quadrupole mass spectrometer system, extensively monitored the neighborhood adjacent to the Valero refinery in southeast Houston. No targeted analytes were detected above the Texas TCEQ Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCV) short term screening levels.

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE

<b>Table 2: Daily/Cumulative summary of Hazard Evaluations/Recovery</b>				
<b>Status</b>	<b>Opened</b>		<b>Closed</b>	
	<b>9/6/2017</b>	<b>Number of Targets Remaining Open</b>	<b>9/6/2017</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>
Alpha Branch	1	29	4	69
Bravo Branch	2	154	2	24
NRC Reports	0	3	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>93</b>

Note: Open means the target is yet to be recovered. Closed means the target was recovered/left in place or access was denied to collect the item.

<b>Table 3: Daily/Cumulative Summary of Spills/Discharges</b>				
<b>Status</b>	<b>Opened</b>		<b>Closed</b>	
	<b>9/6/2017</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>	<b>9/6/2017</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>
Alpha Branch	32	410	5	58
Bravo Branch	3	53	0	12
NRC Reports	1	29	1	16
<b>Totals</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>86</b>

Note: Open means the target is yet to be recovered. Closed means the target was recovered/left in place or access was denied to collect the item.

## **FIELD RESPONSE ACTIVITIES**

### **CORPUS CHRISTI BRANCH:**

Response Teams are overseeing the removal of oil from The Signet Enterprise vessel, located at Aransas Pass. The Responsible Party has removed 15,000 gallons of petroleum on September 6, 2017, and 60,000 gallons of petroleum has been removed overall. An estimate 8,000–10,000 gallons remain.

The Hazard Assessment Group continues to locate, identify and register sites of concern, The Oil Discharge Recovery Group continues to remove and close out sites.

### **HOUSTON BRANCH:**

A total of 25 Hazard Evaluation Teams completed assessments (100% completion) of Austin, Waller, Liberty, and Chambers Counties; 90% complete in Montgomery, Colorado and Walker (road/flooding) Counties, and; 10% complete in Fort Bend County.

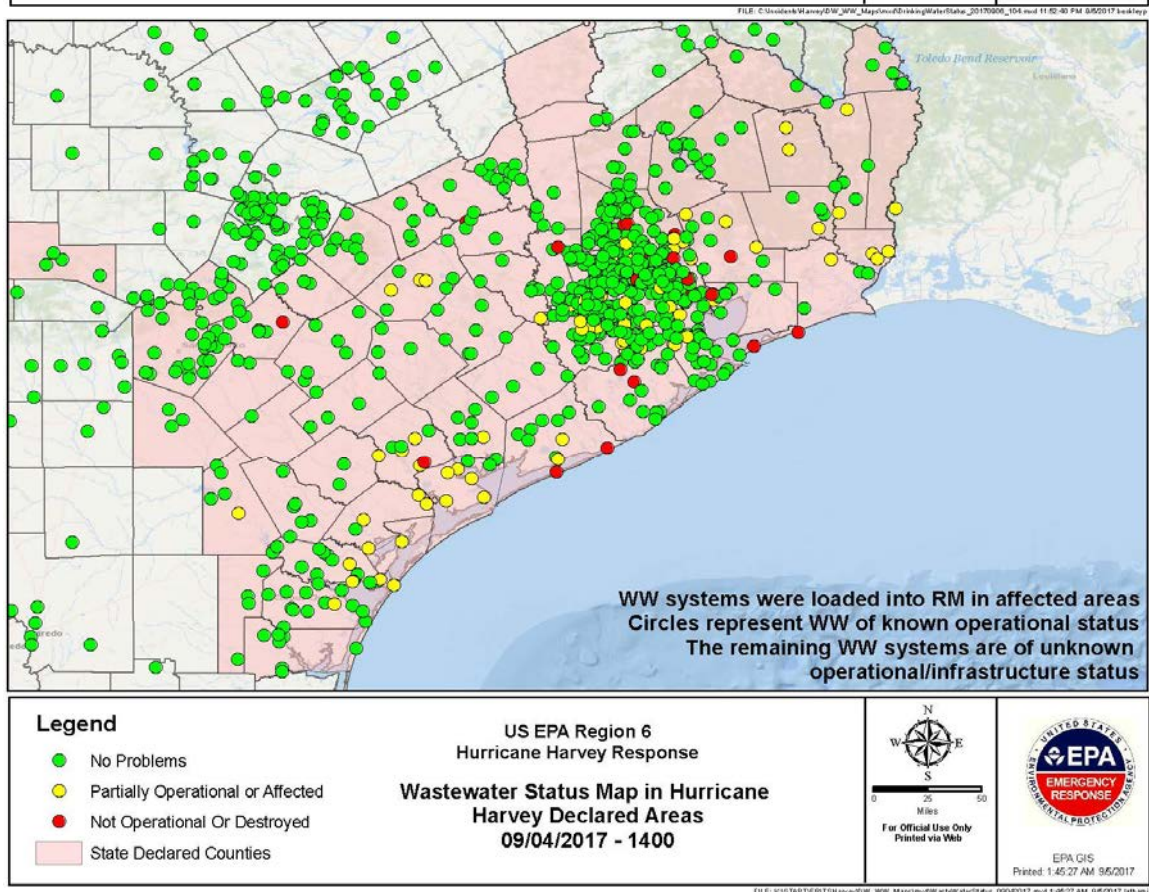
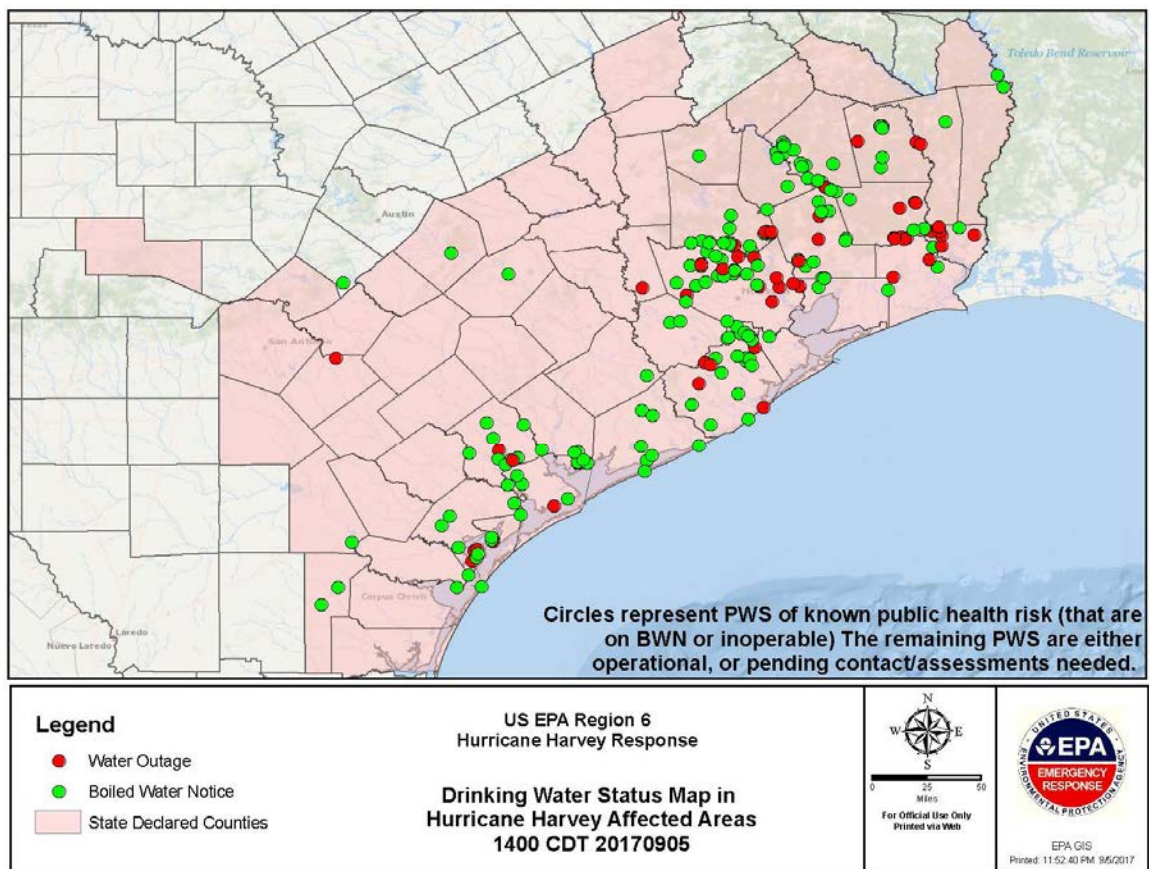
### **PORT ARTHUR/BEAUMONT BRANCH:**

Much of the Port Arthur/Beaumont area is still flooded. A Hazard Evaluation Team traveled to Alligator Bay but the road had washed away and there was no access. The Team observed oil being discharged from the Motiva facility and the Oil Spill Response Office was on scene and tending to the spill.

## **DRINKING WATER / WASTEWATER ASSESSMENTS**

EPA is providing support to TCEQ for drinking water and wastewater system assessments. There are 10 members at the TCEQ Austin phone bank including one assisting with data flow and technical regulatory questions. In addition, drinking water and wastewater assessment teams are currently established in Houston, with additional members arriving this week. Current Houston response activities consist of 14 EPA personnel conducting drinking water and wastewater assessments in the Harris County area.

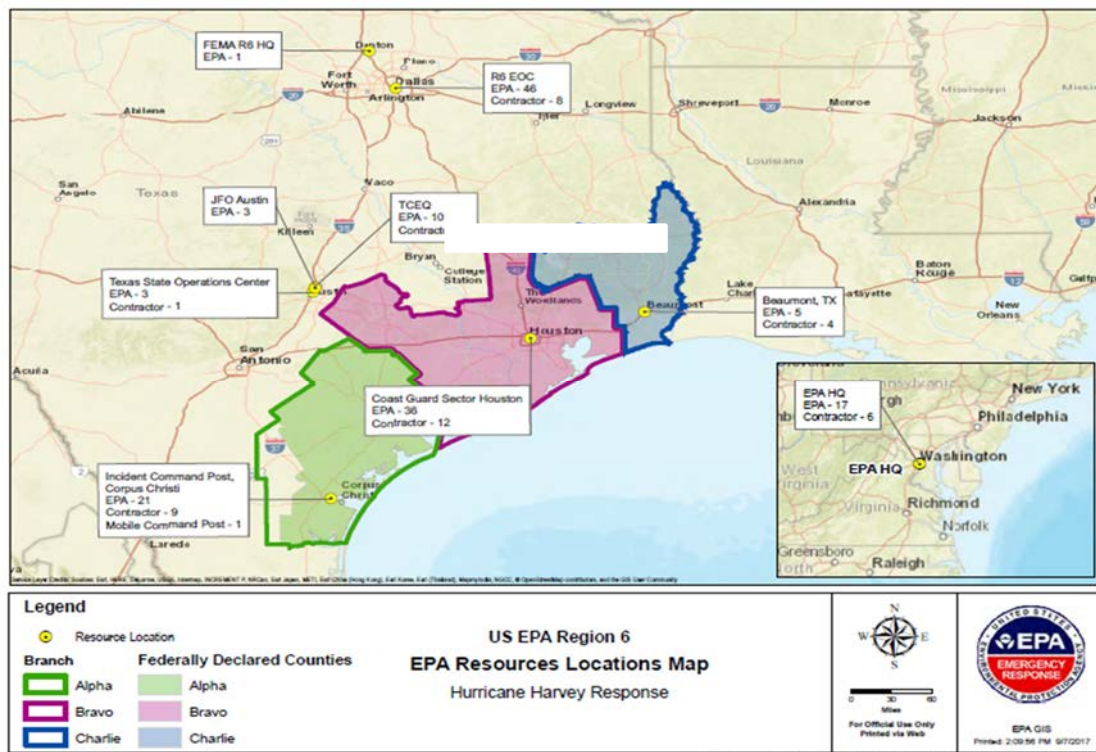
<b>Table 1: Drinking Water and Waste Water Assessments</b>		
	<b>Daily Assessments</b>	<b>Total Assessments</b>
<b>On-Site DW Assessments</b>	50	168
<b>On-Site WW Assessments</b>	41	115
<b>Phone DW Assessments</b>	432	4510
<b>Phone WW Assessments</b>	98	2794





## EPA RESOURCES

Personnel	EPA	FEMA	Texas JFO	Texas SOC	TCEQ	Houston,	Corpus Christi,	Beaumont,	HQ EOC,	TOTAL
	Dallas, TX	Denton, TX	Austin, TX	Austin, TX	Austin, TX	TX	TX	TX	Wash,	
EPA	46	1	3	3	10	36	20	5	17	141
START	8			1	1	11	9	4		34
ERRS						7	8			15
Other Contractors	1								6	7
Total	55	1	3	4	11	54	37	9	23	197



## FUNDING

September 7, 2017, UPDATED 1300 hours

	Funding Sources	Funding Ceiling	Funding Ceiling Less Indirect	Spent to Date	Remaining Balance	Daily Burn Rate	Days Remaining
	Non Mission Assignment	N/A		\$64,200.00	\$0.00		
	MA 4332DR-TX-EPA-01	\$275,000.00	\$242,741.00	\$21,968.00	\$220,773.00	\$2,848.00	77.52
	MA 4332DR-TX-EPA-03	\$8,592,000.00	\$7,584,077.00	\$5,124,799.68	\$2,459,277.32	\$280,658.98	8.76
	Totals:	\$8,867,000.00	\$7,826,818.00	\$5,210,967.68	\$2,680,050.32		

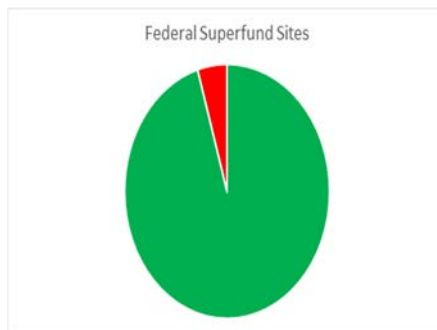
\*\* Indirect costs represent the money the Cincinnati Shared Service Center takes off the top to manage the Mission Assignments

## REFINERIES/FUEL WAIVERS

- EPA is reaching out to the states to see if there is agreement about extending the current multi-state fuel waiver beyond September 15th. EPA is in the process of evaluating the responses and no final decision has been made yet.
- EPA has granted all open fuel waivers requested to date.
- EPA has issued a No Action Assurance for the Use of Vapor Recovery Systems in Texas Related to Hurricane Harvey (September 1, 2017). EPA will exercise its discretion not to pursue enforcement for violations of the vapor recovery requirements for fuel loading and unloading under 40 CFR Part 60 Subpart XX and Part 63 Subparts, R, Y, CC, BBBB, and 30 Texas Administrative Code sections 115.212, .214.
- The Internal Revenue Service expanded the red dye fuel waiver to cover the entire state of Texas, not just the 110 counties as before.

## FEDERAL SUPERFUND NPL SITES

- All 43 Federal Superfund NPL Sites in the affected area have been assessed. Of these, 41 sites have been cleared, and two sites (San Jacinto Pits and US Oil Recovery) require additional follow-up.
  - US Oil Update: Pumping equipment and a storage tank are being utilized at the site to maintain overflow control. No sheen or odor has been observed
  - San Jacinto Update: Cap repairs and underwater cap surveying continues. The EPA dive team is on-site and integrated in the cap survey efforts. Sampling began with the collection of sediment and surface water samples.
- On September 5, 2017, EPA has initiated sampling at NPL sites in Texas. EPA will sample 34 NPL sites to confirm no releases. Sampling was completed at two sites with the remainder planned for completion by September 11, 2017. The sampling is part of a longer-term assessment that will be used to transition sites to their normal cleanup operations. A schedule for conducting the sampling at all the Texas NPL sites has been prepared. EPA will task its contractors and direct Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs), where appropriate.





## 9/5//2017 FIELD ACTIVITIES

### PHOTOS



Responsible Party contractors began manual probing of underwater cap with oversight by EPA Dive Team representative at the San Jacinto Waste Pits.



The Responsible Party contractor continued cap repair activities at the San Jacinto Waste Pits.



EPA On Scene Coordinator Surveying a Well-Head from the Corpus Christi Branch.